

# Upcoming Events @ St. Mark's

WEEK OF JANUARY 25, 2026

## Annual Meeting of the Congregation, Soup Sunday, and Bake Sale – TODAY after worship

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting following worship. Enjoy a bowl of hot soup (takeout also available) and purchase some tasty baked goods to support St. Mark's India and Tanzania missions

## Wednesday Community Dinners, 5-6pm

All are welcomed to the table for this homemade meal offered Wednesdays during the school year. Freewill offering gladly accepted.

Jan 28: Mexican chicken with rice, Feb 4: Chili, Feb 11: Burger bar Feb 18: Tater Tot Hotdish

## Red Cross Blood Drive – Jan 28, 1-7pm

### North Presbyterian Church

Give Blood, Save Lives. The next blood drive is at North Presbyterian Church (Fellowship Hall, 2675 E Hwy 36, North St. Paul). Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: NorthStPaulChurchesMN to schedule an appointment.

## Cabin Fever Game Day – Sat. Jan. 31

Join us from 1-4pm, in Fellowship Hall for an afternoon of fun. We'll have board games, card games, fellowship, laughter and snacks! Come in out of the cold weather and spend time with us! Feel free to bring your favorite game or we will have a variety of games to choose from. Sign-up on the Women's Board in Rees Hall. Call Virginia Coller 651-777-0584 for more information.

## National Lutheran Choir Tune Up – Sat. Jan. 31

The Choir of St. Mark's will be joined by 450 of their closest singing friends Saturday morning January 31 at Roseville Lutheran Church for 2026 National Lutheran Choir Choral Tune-Up, Making Music across Generations. We'll enjoy a morning of singing with acclaimed composer Elaine Hagenberg and NLC Artistic Director Dr. Jennaya Robison. **Special Thanks to the St. Mark's Foundation** for covering the costs of attending this educational and team-building event for the whole choir! If you would like to attend, see Tom Paulson, Director of Music and Worship, or any choir member for more details. Robeson invites "singers of all backgrounds, or none, to join us."

## Choirs of St. Mark's Tune Up – Sun. Feb. 8

The Choir of St. Mark's will be led by Dr. Robeson and an octet from the National Lutheran Choir on Sunday February 8 in the St. Mark's Choral Tune Up. (The January 31 event is specifically for the choir singers, while this is more focused on the needs of St. Mark's Music Ministry.) There will also be a children's choir. If you would like to sing, please see Tom Paulson, Director of Music and Worship, or any choir member for more details.

## Upcoming Mental Health Events

Take full advantage of our relationship with Mental Health Connect and attend one or more of their upcoming events.

- I Am Safe: Mind-Body Practices for Promoting Mental Health – Tues. Feb. 10, 7 – 8:30pm (Zoom)
- Breaking through Loneliness – Tues. Feb. 17, 6 – 8pm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Some events may require registration or/and a fee. Go to [www.mhconnect.org/find-mhc](http://www.mhconnect.org/find-mhc) for more details.

## Thank You to our Worship Assistants:

**Worship Band:** Missy Lillie, Tom Michel, Tyler Ronsberg, Diane Sell, vocalists; Ken Indrelie, guitar; Steve Feltowski, bass; Russ Payne, drums

**Ministry Assistant:** Mike Ericson

**Usher Team 4:** Bonnie Meyers, Joe Danko, Diane Danko, Matthias Engh

**Reader:** Joanie Henriksen

**Communion:** Jim Allen, Julie Urban

**Welcome Center:** Julie Urban

**Altar Care:** Marsha Hoyer, Barbara McNeely

**Greeters:** Suzanne Ericson, Sherry Berry

**Multimedia:** Gary Martin, Josh Hirman

## Mark your calendars!

Watch for more details about these events in your weekly announcements and eNews:

- **Jan. 26:** Men's Book Study Group
- **Jan. 28:** Red Cross Blood Drive – North Presbyterian
- **Jan. 31:** Cabin Fever Game Day
- **Feb. 8:** National Lutheran Choir Tune-Up
- **Feb. 18:** Ash Wednesday

## Next Week's Ushering Schedule

**Feb 1:** Team 1, Mike Ericson

## Music Notes

Tom Paulson, Director of Music & Worship

Darkness cannot drive out darkness,  
only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A good friend of mine this week reminded me of these words. King wrote and preached them in the middle of the 1960's struggle for civil rights. They are a stark reminder that just as physical light source dispels physical darkness, positive actions - love, truth, understanding, peace - are needed to overcome hate, violence and lies. In Matthew Jesus calls us to let our light shine that all may see our good works and glorify God. King's call is like Jesus's, to meet conflict with positivity, peace, and love, as difficult as that is to do! To do otherwise perpetuates the cycle of destruction.

There's a country song making the rounds today, and we'll be singing it during communion.

*In a world full of hate, be a light. When you do  
somebody wrong, make it right.*

*Don't hide in the dark; you we're born to shine. In a  
world full of hate, be a light. (Thomas Rhett)*

I picked it for a couple of reasons: 1) Being a light means standing out from the crowd, not following the crowd blindly. 2) Being a light means standing up for what is right, having the courage of your convictions, making a fuss, making good trouble. And when you're wrong, own up to it. 3) This song is currently being sung by a broad contingent of singers - Thomas Rhett, Reba McEntire, Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin, Keith Urban. There must be something to it!

## Upcoming in Worship

**Feb. 1:** Choir of St. Mark's

**Feb. 8:** Choirs of St. Mark's Tune Up, children and adults, with Dr. Jennaya Robison

**Feb. 15:** Worship Band

## Coming in February & March

**Black History Month** (February) honors the vital contributions, achievements, and culture of Black Americans in arts, science, politics, and beyond.

**Women's History Month** (March) honors the vital contributions, achievements, and culture of women in arts, science, politics, and beyond. As we worship in February and March, we'll specifically incorporate readings from black and women theologians, poets, and leaders, and music of black and women composers and musicians to help us all more deeply understand their contributions.

## News from the Foundation

The St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation has been blessed in 2025 with generous gifts and therefore has been able to also give back generously. The Foundation has been able to carry its mission forward by endowing grants for more than \$22,000 during 2025. Here is a chance for you to help. Keep your eyes open, and your ears tuned in, watching and listening for needs and wants in our community and world? Did you know you can request a grant from the Foundation by submitting a request form online or completing a form in the church office? Grants are reviewed by the Grants Committee and then considered by the Board of Trustees. Explore some possibilities that would benefit our church, or local and global communities. Visit the website at [www.stmarksnspfoundation.com](http://www.stmarksnspfoundation.com) where you can see grants previously awarded and follow the guidelines for accepted grant categories.

### Weekly Calendar

#### Sunday, January 25

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

9:30 am Sunday School

10:40 am Annual Meeting, Soup Sunday,  
Bake Sale, RH

#### Monday, January 26

10:30 am Caring Ministries, #203

1:00 am Women's Board Mtg, FS

6:30 pm Monday Bible Study, zoom

#### Tuesday, January 27

~~9:00 am Morning Bible Study~~ Canceled

6:30 pm Girl Scout Leader Mtg, #203

6:30 pm St. Mark's Strummers, #102

#### Wednesday, January 28

5:30 pm Wednesday Dinner, RH

5:45 pm Jubilee Handbell Choir, SC

6:00 pm All Ages Faith Formation

7:00 pm Prayer & Praise Service, LC

7:15 pm Choir of St. Mark's, SC

#### Thursday, January 29

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, offsite

6:30 pm Anne Bible Study, FS

#### Friday, January 30

 – Office Closed

11:00 am Archives inventory, FH

#### Saturday, January 31

 – Office Closed

1:00 pm Cabin Fever Game Day, FH

#### Sunday, February 1

9:30 am Worship Service, SC

9:30 am Sunday School

### Ministry Staff

Rev. David Bjorklund, Lead Pastor  
[prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org)

Kate Bentley, Deacon  
[deaconkateb@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:deaconkateb@stmarks-nsp.org)

Tom Paulson, Dir. of Music & Worship  
[tomp@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:tomp@stmarks-nsp.org)

### Office Hours

Mon –Thurs: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Ph: 651-777-7451

**Weekly Worship**  
Sundays: 9:30 am

**Guest WiFi**  
[P3@nutButt3r](mailto:P3@nutButt3r)